GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1920
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2001
HYDRO ELECTRICITY GENERATION IN H.P. AND UTTARANCHAL
AVTAR SINGH BHADANA;BHERU LAL MEENA

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to make efforts to tap the vast potential of hydro electricity generation in the country including Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal propose to create Power Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the effective steps taken by the Government to give incentives to the States having vast potential for generating hydro electricity?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA)

(a) to (c) : The country is endowed with an economically exploitable viable hydro potential assessed at 148700 MW in terms of installed capacity. However, only 16.6% of this potential has been exploited, 6.3% is under various stages of development and 2.73% has been cleared by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA).A substantial part of the hydroelectric potential is located in Himachal Pradesh (18820 MW) and Uttaranchal (17000 MW).

Government of India is according high priority for development ofhydroelectric projects in the country. Joint efforts have been made with the State Government of Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh to execute Tehri Hydro electricProject in Uttaranchal (2400 MW) and Nathpa Jhakri Project in Himachal Pradesh (1500 MW). Government of India has so far tentatively identified hydroelectric projects of 16,338 MW for benefits in the Xth Plan and 25,254 MW for benefits in the country in theXIth Plan.The capacity addition identified for benefits in these Plans would, however, depend on obtaining statutory clearances and tying-up of necessary funds.

The budgetary support for hydroelectric projects under central sector has been substantially increased from Rs.1265 crores to Rs.2082 crores over the last four years. Government of India is also providing assistance to the State Sector projectsthrough loans from Power Finance Corporation.A special Accelerated Power Development Programme has been launched for Renovation, Modernisation and Uprating activities of hydro stations.

Government of India has recently introduced 3-stage development ofhydroelectric projects under Central Sector with a view to reducing time and cost overrun in implementing the hydroelectric projects. The Central Electricity Authority has alsocompleted a preliminary ranking of all the potential hydro sites in all river basins of the country based on technical and non-technical parameters.
The Policy of Hydro Power Development announced by the Governmentof India in August, 1998 provides for the establishment of National Power DevelopmentFund. On a petition filed by NHPC for levy of a surcharge on energy available at bus baron the electricity generated from its generating stations, CERC has allowed NHPC tdevy development surcharge at the rate of 5% of the billing amount (capacity and energy charges) to be used for development of hydro power in the Region.